

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 101631Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1690

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2156

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJECT: CANADIAN OIL POLICY MEASURES

1. MONTREAL GAZETTE OF SEPTEMBER 10 FRONT-PAGES
OTTAWA DATE-LINED ARTICLE IN WHICH ENERGY MINISTER
MACDONALD IS REPORTED TO HAVE STATED ON SEPTEMBER 9
THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MAY RECONSIDER PIPELINE TO
MONTREAL IF QUEBEC GOVERNMENT CAN GUARANTEE PROVINCE'S
LONG-TERM OIL SUPPLY BY OTHER MEANS. MACDONALD HAS
REPORTEDLY ASKED QUEBEC TO PRODUCE "HARD EVIDENCE"
THAT IT HAS ACCESS TO LONG-TERM SUPPLIES OF OFF-SHORE
CRUDE AT REASONABLE, COMPETITIVE PRICES. PENDING
SUCH EVIDENCE, MACDONALD SAID IT "NOT REALLY"
ACCURATE TO SUGGEST FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS ON VERGE OF
REVERSING ITS NEW POLICY DECISION. "I AM SURE WE WILL
BE TALKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM AGAIN WITH THE QUEBECERS
AT THE MEETING THEY ASKED FOR ON SEPT. 14."

2. MACDONLD IS ATTRIBUTED WITH SAYING HE COULD
UNDERSTAND QUEBEC'S CONCERN THAT FEDERAL DECISION MIGHT
INTERFERE WITH PLANS TO ESTABLISH PETROLEUM SUPERPORTS
ON ST. LAWRENCE BASED ON FOREIGN CRUDE. HOWEVER,
MACDONALD REPORTEDLY LABELLED SUCH PLANS "INCOMPLETE"
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AND "VAGUE." HE ADDED, "ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION

GIVEN US BY QUEBEC WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION,
BEFORE THE DECLARATION IN PRINCIPLE BY THE PRIME
MINISTER TAKES FORM."
SCHMIDT

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NNN

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